



News Release

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District**

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Public Affairs

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Corps of Engineers to host public meetings for the ROPE Environmental Impact Statement

SAINT PAUL, MINN. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service will host several interagency public scoping meetings to gather input on the potential effects of new Mississippi Headwaters' reservoir operation plan alternatives that will be studied under the Headwaters Reservoir Operation Plan Evaluation, also called ROPE.

The study includes the six primary reservoirs managed by the Corps of Engineers. Three of the reservoirs in the study area are within the Chippewa National Forest. These meetings will be used to express what potential impacts will be studied in detail within the ROPE and to obtain additional public input regarding possible alternative plans and associated impacts that should be studied but are not currently planned.

These meetings will be held in an informal open house format, consisting of a short presentation on the ROPE, followed by a session for gathering stakeholder and agency inputs. Participants are welcome to come anytime during the session. These meetings will serve as the National Environmental Protection Act scoping requirement. As part of the environmental impact statement, the agencies request comments from those person or organizations that may be interested or affected.

The first meeting will be for the **Twins Cities Metropolitan area**, from 5-7:30 p.m., Monday, June 7 at the Brooklyn Park Library, 8600 Zane Ave. N., Brooklyn Park, Minn.

The second meeting will be held in the **Walker area**, 5-8 p.m., Wednesday, June 9, at the AmericInn, 907 Highway 371 N. Walker, Minn.

The third meeting will be in the **Grand Rapids area**, 5-8 p.m., Thursday, June 10, at the Grand Rapids Area Library, 140 NE 2nd St., Grand Rapids, Minn.

The final meeting will be held in the **Brainerd area**, 5-7:30 p.m., Friday, June 11 in the Administration Building of the Gull Lake Recreation Area, 10867 E. Gull Lake Dr., Brainerd, Minn.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, serves the American public in the areas of environmental enhancement, navigation, flood damage reduction, wetlands regulation, recreation sites and disaster response. It contributes around \$142 million to the five-state district economy. The more than 750 employees work at more than 40 sites in five upper-Midwest states. For more information, see www.mvp.usace.army.mil.